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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

PRESENT CONDITIONS IN THE WESTERN  
INNER MONGOLIA AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT

The western Inner Mongolia autonomous government includes the Silingol League, and the Chahar League. The area, bounded by Outer Mongolia on the north, is about 210,000 square kilometers. The combined population of the two leagues is 129,000. About 49,100 of these people engage in agriculture, leaving about 80,000 who are wholly dependent upon pastoral activities for a livelihood. Water and grass are abundant.

Because of the vicissitudes of war which the area has suffered during the last decade and the only recent arrival of the government, statistics are somewhat sketchy. On the basis of Japanese statistics, however, there are about 1,760,000 animals in the area; about 1,300,000 are goats and sheep, and the rest are large animals. The Silingol League has about 900,000 sheep, 160,000 cattle, and 100,000 horses; the Chahar League possesses 300,000 sheep 100,000 cattle and 70,000 - 80,000 horses. The present animal population is about 20 percent less than it was before the war. According to an investigation made last autumn, there was a decline in the number of animals bred in the Silingol League. In the Chahar League the decline has been stopped. It should be possible in the future to see a gradual increase in the number of animals until it reaches or exceeds prewar figures.

At present, neighboring political and military organizations are making heavy purchases of all types of animals, in lots of from one thousand to several thousand at a time. This is to some extent having an adverse affect on breeding possibilities, since the majority of the animals bought are females.

In order to stop the decline in animal population and start an upward trend, the following plans are afoot:

- 1 -

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1. To increase the number of horses and cattle by 40 percent, sheep 60 percent, and camels 20 percent.
2. To establish a fund of 300 tons of grain for veterinary and epidemic prevention purposes.
3. To destroy 8000 wolves.
4. To repair old wells and dig 1,200 new ones.
5. To accumulate 40 million catties of hay.
6. To invest one billion yuan People's currency in publicly operated grazing projects.

It is planned to open two of these grazing projects this year, one at Wu-chu-mu-ch'in, the other at Ta-ying-tzu in the Yellow Banner northwest of To-lun. The cadres for the second project have already gone forward. The aim is to introduce new improved methods as an example for the people. Eventually it is planned to have a publicly-operated ranch in each banner. The greatest deterrent at present is lack of cadres. Hence, it is important at present to send emissaries among all the banners to recruit young volunteers to take a training course for cadre service.

The government is following a policy of protection for large as well as medium stock owners. Herds are not like land; if they are divided up, re-production slows down. Furthermore, if herds were divided and the people were led to feel that the animals belonged to them, they would kill them for food.

One thing that must be improved is the treatment of the herdsmen by the masters.

In addition to the above projects, the authorities also have decided to:

1. Organize the people to transport 6 million catties of salt.
2. Reduce the present number of consumer cooperatives in the parent leagues to 12, and request the various banners to set up banner cooperatives.
3. Request larger banners to establish publicly operated felt factories to provide covers for yurts.
4. Ask the agricultural areas in Chahar league to increase their production above 1949 production two sheng per mou by improving their methods, and also to cultivate 50,000 mou of wild land.

The establishment of consumer cooperatives is very important to the Mongol economy. In the past, travelling merchants have made fabulous profits off the Mongols; since the liberation they have been frightening them into selling their cattle cheaply by circulating false rumors that the herds were to be divided up, and they have profited immensely.

In former days they had connections with the feudalistic powers. When the traders went among the Mongols to buy animals, the prince would order this owner and that owner to supply so many head each. Prices were never according to the real value of the animals. In 1946, they exchanged two cigarettes for one cow, or a jade cigarette holder or three bolts of cloth for a horse. At a time when the Mongols wanted cotton, the traders would give them 6 catties of cotton for a horse, maintaining that it was the equivalent of three bolts of cloth. Some who were even more covetous would secure 200 horses for 20 bolts of cloth.

- 2 -

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But those days are gone forever. The emancipated Mongols will no longer be cheated by them. They will deal only with their own cooperatives. Last year, the cooperatives sold through the Western Mongolia Trading Company 900,000 catties of wool, 20,000 hides, 10,000 cattle, 1,000 horses, and 10,000 sheep. The Western Mongolia Trading Company supplied their needs in rice, cloth, brick tea, tobacco, and Mongol boots at bottom prices. Western Inner Mongolia autonomous government authorities estimate that the trading company can handle 60 to 80 percent of the trade of the area, and have guaranteed them 60 percent. This still leaves a considerable amount of trade to be carried on by private traders who give evidence that their aim is to benefit the people, and to carry on honest, reasonable trade. It is estimated that, besides horses, there will be 100,000 sheep, a maximum of 5,000 cattle, and 600,000 catties of wool to be taken out of the area this year. As breeding increases the size of the herds, there will be much more trade to handle.

Though the princes remain, their power has weakened. Though lamas remain, church and state have been separated; the people no longer need revere them. Everybody is on the same political and social level.

Some young lamas have married, some are practicing medicine, others have taken up wolf hunting and other occupations. Formerly, all work among the Mongols was done by the women, while the men spent their time riding from yurt to yurt, drinking tea and visiting. Now, however, the men are being mobilized for work. They are taking over most of the nonhousehold work. Some backward merchants are still bringing around various hair ornaments to sell, not realizing that most of the Mongol women have cut their hair, have put on uniforms, and wear caps.

Most of the banners in West Mongolia have adopted democratic governmental practices. A few still cling to the old feudalistic ways, but are gradually being influenced toward more modern ways.

Education is making progress. In the Silingol League all schools are free, in the Chahar leagues about one third of the pupils enjoy free education. Many short term schools are being operated. A West Mongol edition of the Neimeng Jih-pao soon will be issued.

In Eastern Inner Mongolia Autonomous Government, canneries and casing processing works have been set up. These developments soon will be introduced into West Mongolia with such modifications as local conditions call for. Bone meal factories, leather tanneries, wool spinning etc., are all likely industries for this area. The authorities are planning for such developments by 1954.

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- 3 -

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